

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

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FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2686

AMEMBASSY BONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 2039

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, PGOV, WB

SUBJECT: FRG/DGR AIR NEGOTIATIONS: BAHR'S READING OF SITUATION

1. AT MEETING OF ALLIED COMMANDANTS AND MINISTERS
NOVEMBER 29, FRG MINISTER BAHR MENTIONED THAT AIR NEGOTIATIONS
BETWEEN FRG AND GDR WERE POSTPONED INDEFINITELY.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION BY UK MINISTER WHETHER
BAHR HAD RAISED THE SUBJECT OF CHANCELLOR'S FLIGHT
TO BERLIN IN CONTEXT OF BAHR'S EARLIER DISCUSSIONS
WITH ALLIED AMBASSADORS IN BONN, BAHR SAID FRG STATE
SECRETARY GAUSS HAD BEEN TOLD BY HIS GDR OPPOSITE
NUMBER, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER NIER, THAT
SUBJECT COULD NOT BE HANDLED AT THIS TIME.

NIER REPORTEDLY EXPLAINED THAT THE
MATTER WAS COMPLICATED; IT WAS PART OF A
LARGER ISSUE OF FRG-GDR AIR NEGOTIATIONS; AND
THAT SUCH NEGOTIATIONS WERE OUT OF THE QUESTION

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AT THIS TIME.

3. BAHR FELT THIS WAS A REALISTIC ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION. THE FRG WAS ONLY INTERESTED IN AIR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GDR, IF FLIGHTS IN AND THROUGH BERLIN WERE INVOLVED. THIS OBVIOUSLY ENTAILED QUADRIPARTITE AS WELL AS FRG-GDR INTERESTS. THE GDR, AS FAR AS BAHR COULD DETERMINE, WAS NOT PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT SERIOUSLY UNTIL AFTER REPEAT AFTER SCHOENEFELD HAD BEEN BUILT UP AS AN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. IN ADDITION, AS FAR AS BAHR COULD ASCERTAIN, AIR NEGOTIATIONS AFFECTING BERLIN WERE NOT OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST TO THE SOVIETS EITHER.

4. THEREFORE, DESPITE EARLIER INDICATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE TRANSIT AGREEMENT THAT AIR MIGHT BE A MATTER FOR EARLY NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN BONN AND EAST BERLIN. IT WAS NOW CLEAR THAT SUBJECT WAS VERY MUCH ON THE BACKBURNER AND WOULD REMAIN THERE FOR SOME TIME. KLEIN

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